NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Technology Technical Note MO-1

Utilizing a Garmin GPSmap 76 for Field Data Collection in Missouri

4/15/2004

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Introduction

The intent of this document is to provide instructions for utilizing a Garmin GPSmap 76 for field data collection. The instructions include:

- An overview of the Garmin GPSmap 76.
- Setting up the Garmin so that data collected in the field matches current NRCS GIS layers.
- Setting up the Garmin for use with the differential GPS (DGPS) Beacon Receiver.
- Loading background maps into the Garmin.
- Collecting data with the Garmin.
- Required accuracy levels.
- Using the MN DNR Garmin software to download data from the Garmin into ArcView and to upload ArcView data into the Garmin for use in the field.
- Navigating with the Garmin GPSmap 76.

Required Software

In order to use the procedures contained in this document, the following software is needed:

- MapSource
- ArcView 3.2a or 3.3
- MN DNR Garmin GPS interface software.

NOTE: The mention and/or use of any software contained in this document should not in any way be considered as an endorsement by USDA-NRCS.

Equipment

This document assumes the equipment being used is that found in the USDA Configuration I GPS system. This includes a Garmin GPSmap 76 receiver, a radio beacon receiver, a dual GPS/beacon antenna, a rechargeable external battery, backpack, and all the necessary cables. This equipment provides real-time differential GPS capability. This simply means that a correction from an external source at a known location (e.g., US Coast Guard radio beacon site) can be received and applied to the satellite information your GPS unit is receiving to obtain a more accurate location.

Overview of the Garmin GPSmap 76

This section gives a brief overview of the unit and how to use the basic features. For more details, users should read the **Garmin GPSmap 76 Owner's Manual and Reference Guide.**

Layout of the Garmin GPSmap 76

Button descriptions

Power Key: The **POWER** key is used to turn the unit on and off. Press *and hold* the Power key to turn on or off the GPS

Rocker Key: The **ROCKER** key is used to control the movement of the cursor on menus and map displays.

Page Key: The **PAGE** key is used to navigate forward through the 5 main display pages. The Page key will also end an operation in progress and return to one of the main pages.

Quit Key: The **QUIT** key is used to navigate backward through the 5 main display pages. The Quit key will also end an operation in progress and return to one of the main pages.

Menu Key: The **MENU** key will display the page options menu for the current page. Pressing the Menu key twice will display the main options menu.

Enter Key: The **ENTER** key is used to activate a data field or make a menu selection. Pressing and holding the Enter key will allow the user to capture the current position as a waypoint.

Nav Key: The **NAV** key is used to start or end navigation functions. Holding down the **NAV** key will store the current position and gives you the opportunity to begin navigating back to that marked point.

Zoom In and Zoom Out Keys: These keys allow you to view a smaller area of the displayed map in greater detail (**ZOOM IN**) or a larger area in less detail (**ZOOM OUT**).

Tips on using Garmin keypad

The following tips should be helpful in selecting and entering items on the screens using the keys on the Garmin keypad.

Use the **ROCKER** key to highlight (i.e., move to) the desired field by pressing on the side of the key in the direction you wish to move.

For a list field (e.g,, Symbol field on the “Mark Waypoint” screen),

a) Press **ENTER** to change to selection mode.
b) Use **ROCKER** key to highlight the desired item from the list.
c) Press **ENTER** to select item.

For a data entry field (e.g., Waypoint number field on the “Mark Waypoint” screen),

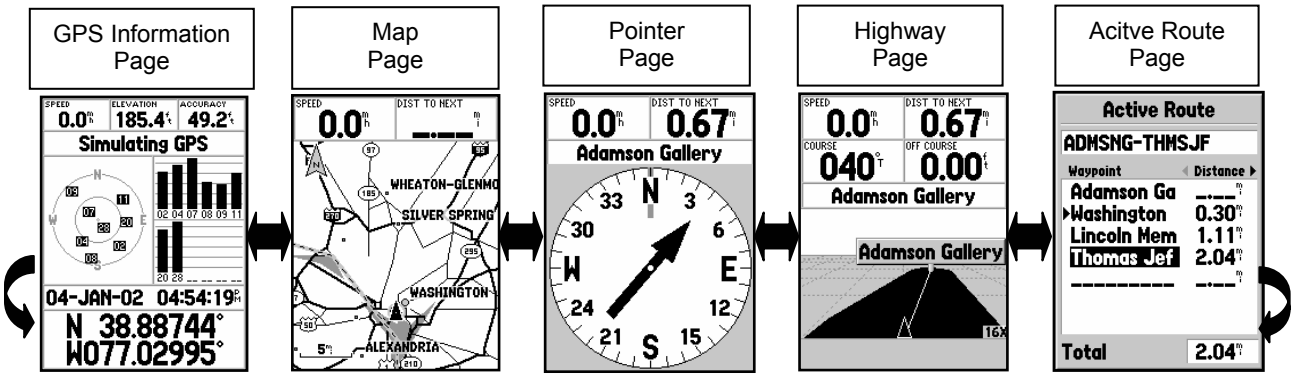
a) Press **ENTER** to change to edit mode. The first character will be highlighted.
b) Use top/bottom of **ROCKER** key to scroll up/down through available numbers and/or letters.
c) Use right side of **ROCKER** key to move to next character.
d) Repeat steps b and c as needed.
e) Press **ENTER** to accept changes or **QUIT** to cancel changes.

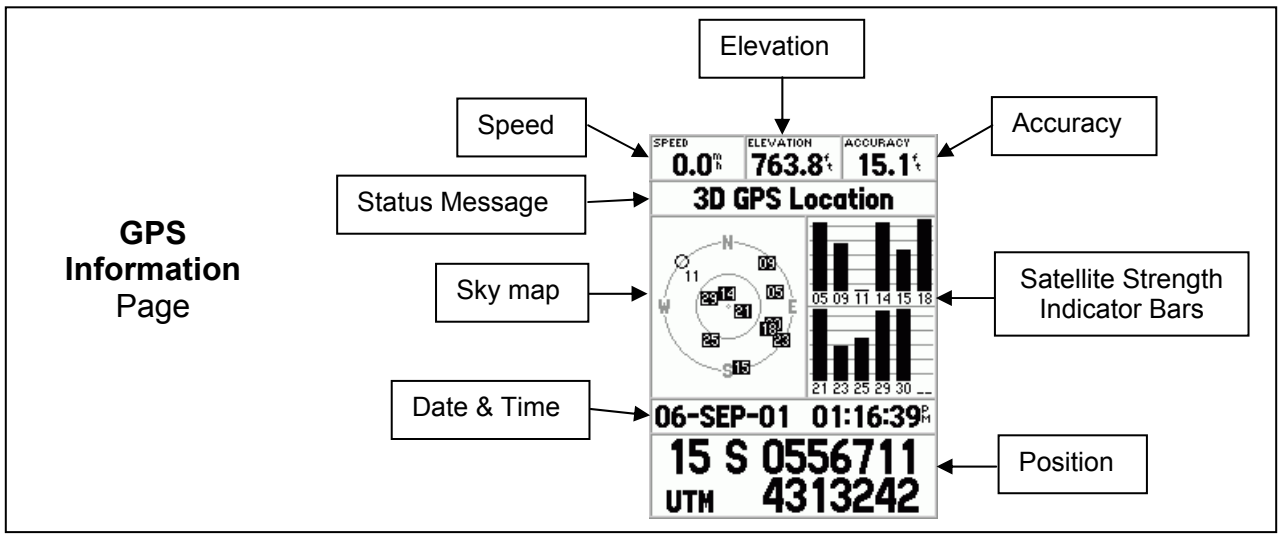
For a search list field (e.g., Waypoint name field on the “Waypoint by Names” screen),

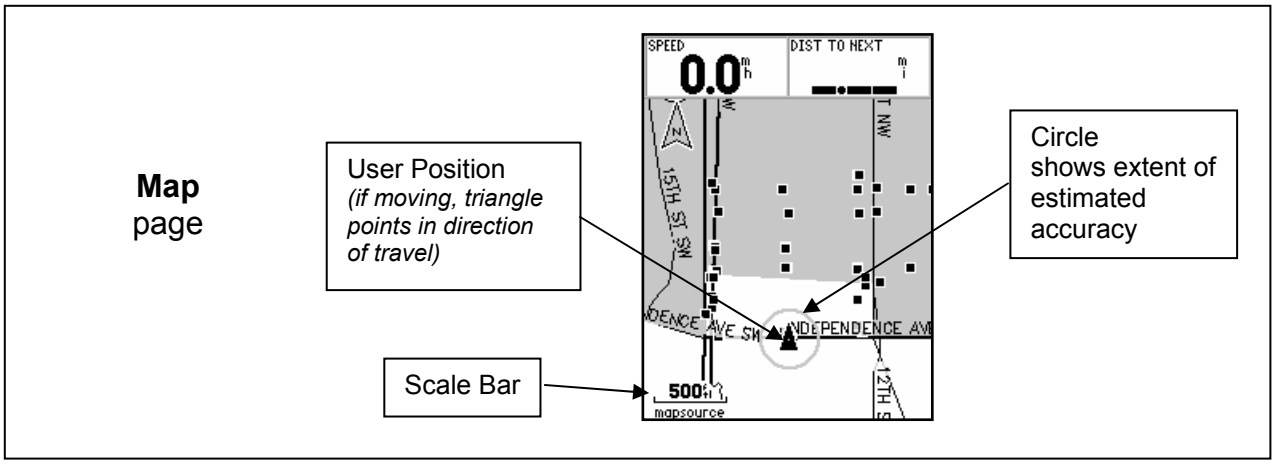
a) Use top/bottom of **ROCKER** key to scroll up/down through available numbers and/or letters in highlighted character position.
b) Use right side of **ROCKER** key to move to next character.
c) Repeat steps a and b as needed.
d) Press **ENTER** to drop into list.
e) Use top/bottom of **ROCKER** key to scroll up/down through list.
f) Press **ENTER** to select the highlighted item.

Screens

There are 5 main screens or pages on the Map76 as shown below. Use the Page and Quit keys to switch between these pages.

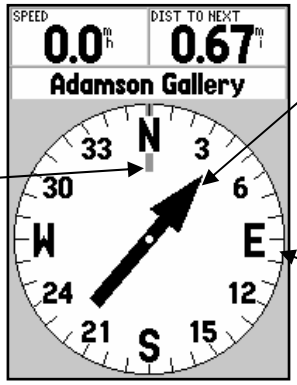






Screens (cont.)

Pointer
Page



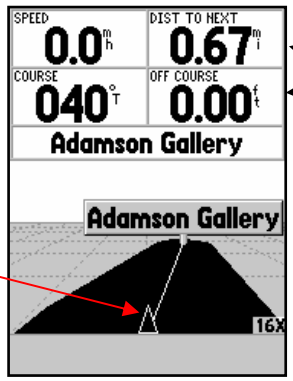
Vertical line
shows direction of travel

Pointer
direction to point to which you are navigating

Compass Ring
(not a true compass, must be moving to get a true reading)

Highway
Page

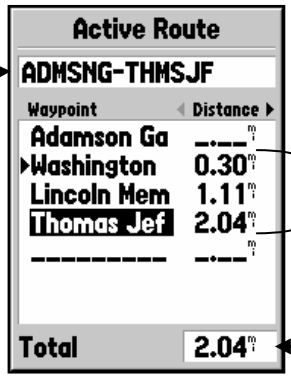
(This page is best used for straight line navigation)



Position icon – black arrowhead
(keep this on the white line of the road)

Numbers to aid in navigation

Active Route
Page



Route name

Distances for each leg of the route

Total distance

Garmin GPSmap 76 Setup

The following procedure should be used to set up a Garmin GPSmap 76 receiver to insure that data collected in the field is consistent with GIS data and imagery currently available to USDA Service Centers.

1. To use the GPS unit with the backpack, do the following:

   a. Connect the thin gray antenna cable from the "GPS Out" port on the beacon receiver to the external antenna port on the top of the Garmin. This improves satellite reception over using the internal antenna of the Garmin unit.

   b. Connect the gray cable with the 4-pin Garmin connector from the "quadcomm" cable to the data/power port on the back of the Garmin. This powers the unit as well as relays the DGPS signal.

   c. Connect the red cable with the male cigarette lighter adapter end from the "quadcomm" cable to the female cigarette lighter adapter end of the battery. This will power up the beacon receiver as well as provide power to the GPS unit.

2. Turn on GPS unit by holding down **POWER** key until unit comes on.

3. Press the **ENTER** key until the GPS Information screen appears.

4. Press the **MENU** key twice to bring up the Main Menu.

5. Highlight "Setup" using the **ROCKER** key. Press the **ENTER** key to select.

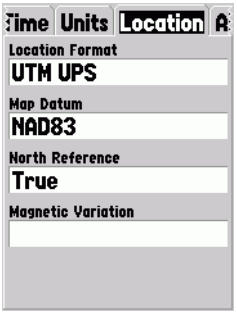
6. The Setup page has a number of tabs
   (*General, Time, Units, Location, Alarms,* and *Interface*)
   Use the following procedure to change the setup values to those specified below for each tab.
   a. Use **ROCKER** key to move left or right to the desired tab.
   b. Use **ROCKER** key to move to desired field. Press **ENTER**.
   c. Use **ROCKER** key to select the correct setting. Press **ENTER**.

7. *General* tab.

   a. *WAAS* should be "**Enabled"** as shown at right. This will allow for greater accuracy if used without the DGPS beacon receiver. WAAS is used only when the interface is set to "Garmin" (i.e., not when it is set to "RCTM In/NMEA Out").

8. *Location* tab.

   a. Set *Location Format* to **"UTM UPS"**.
   Note: "Location format" simply determines the coordinate display on this unit. Data is still downloaded as latitude/longitude values into the MN DNR Garmin software.
   b. Set *Map Datum* to **"NAD83"**.
   c. Set *North Reference* to **"True"**.

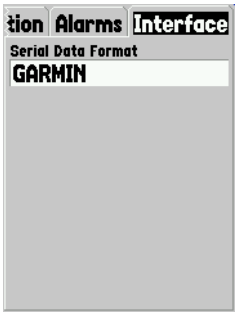


9. *Interface* tab.

NOTE: The preferred method of collecting data with the Garmin is to use it with the DGPS Beacon Receiver in the backpack.

a. Use Without the DGPS Beacon Receiver

The Garmin GPSmap 76 can be used without attaching the GPS to the DGPS beacon receiver in instances where maximum accuracy is not a requirement. Such instances might include conducting resource inventories, conservation planning, navigation, etc.

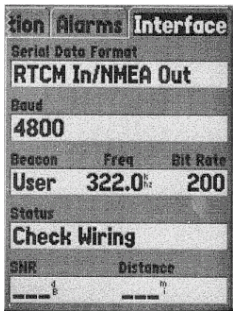


To operate without the beacon receiver, set *Serial Data Format* to **"GARMIN"**.

Note: This setting is also used when downloading data to a computer.

b. Use With the DGPS Beacon Receiver

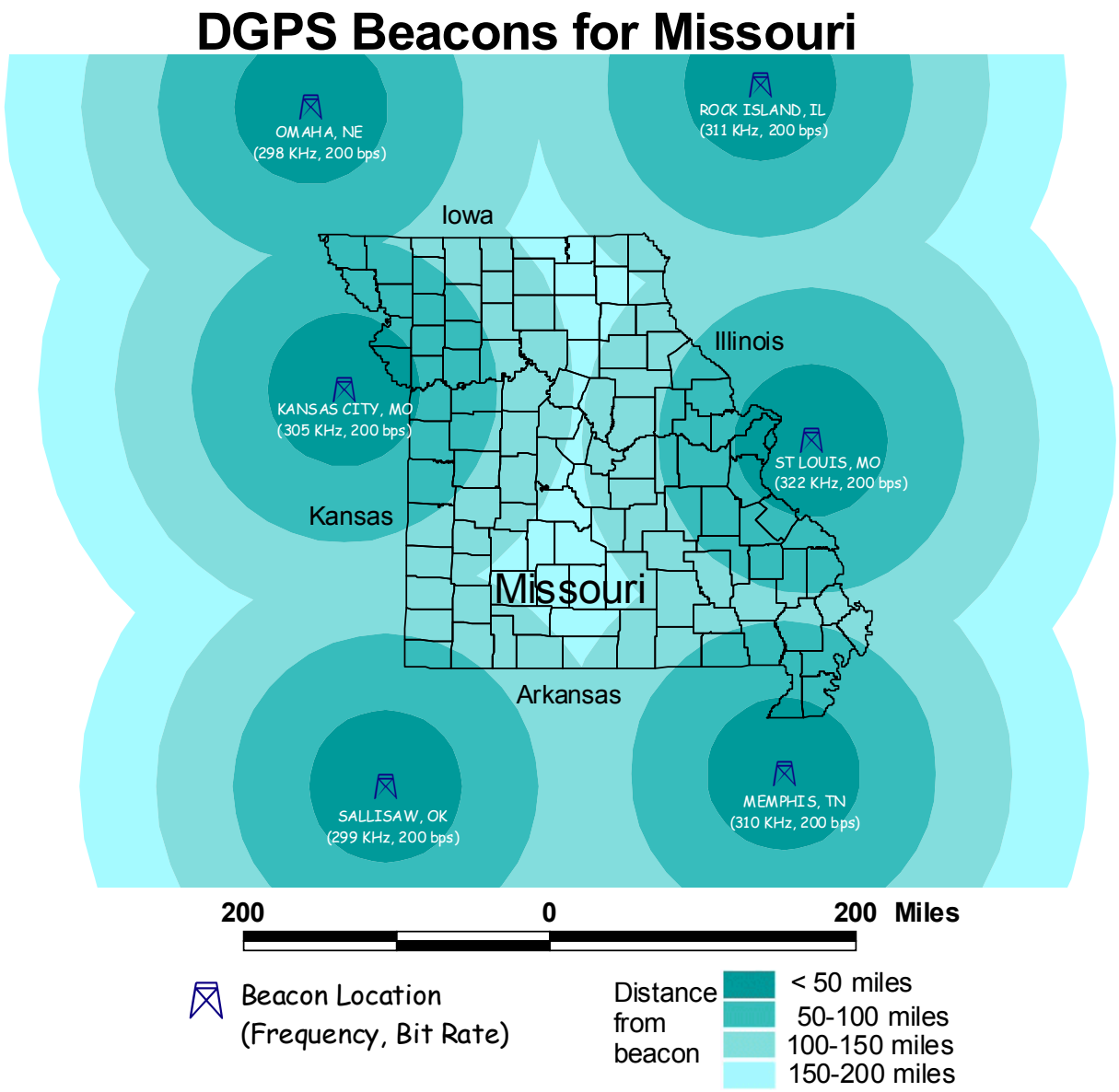
The Garmin GPSmap 76 must be used with the DGPS beacon receiver in instances where maximum accuracy is required. Such instances include certifying conservation practices for payment, precise layout of conservation practices in the field, precise navigation, etc.



When using the beacon receiver, set
Serial Data Format to **"RTCM In/NMEA Out"**
Baud to **"4800"**
Beacon to **"User"** and then enter a known frequency and bit rate from the table below for one of the beacons available in Missouri:

Location	Freq.	Bit Rate
Kansas City, MO	305.0	200
Memphis, TN	310.0	200
Omaha, NE	298.0	200
Rock Island, IL	311.0	200
Sallisaw, OK	299.0	200
St. Louis, MO	322.0	200

Refer to the map on the next page to find the DGPS Beacon closest to your location. When a beacon signal is detected, "Status" should indicate "Receiving" and a value for "SNR" (signal to noise ratio) should appear. A "Distance" value may or may not appear. The GPS Info screen should indicate "3D Differential Location" in the status line. Also a "D" in or above a satellite strength indicator bar will indicate that differential corrections are being applied to that satellite.



Additional beacon information and coverage areas can be obtained on the US Coast Guard website at http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/dgps/ .

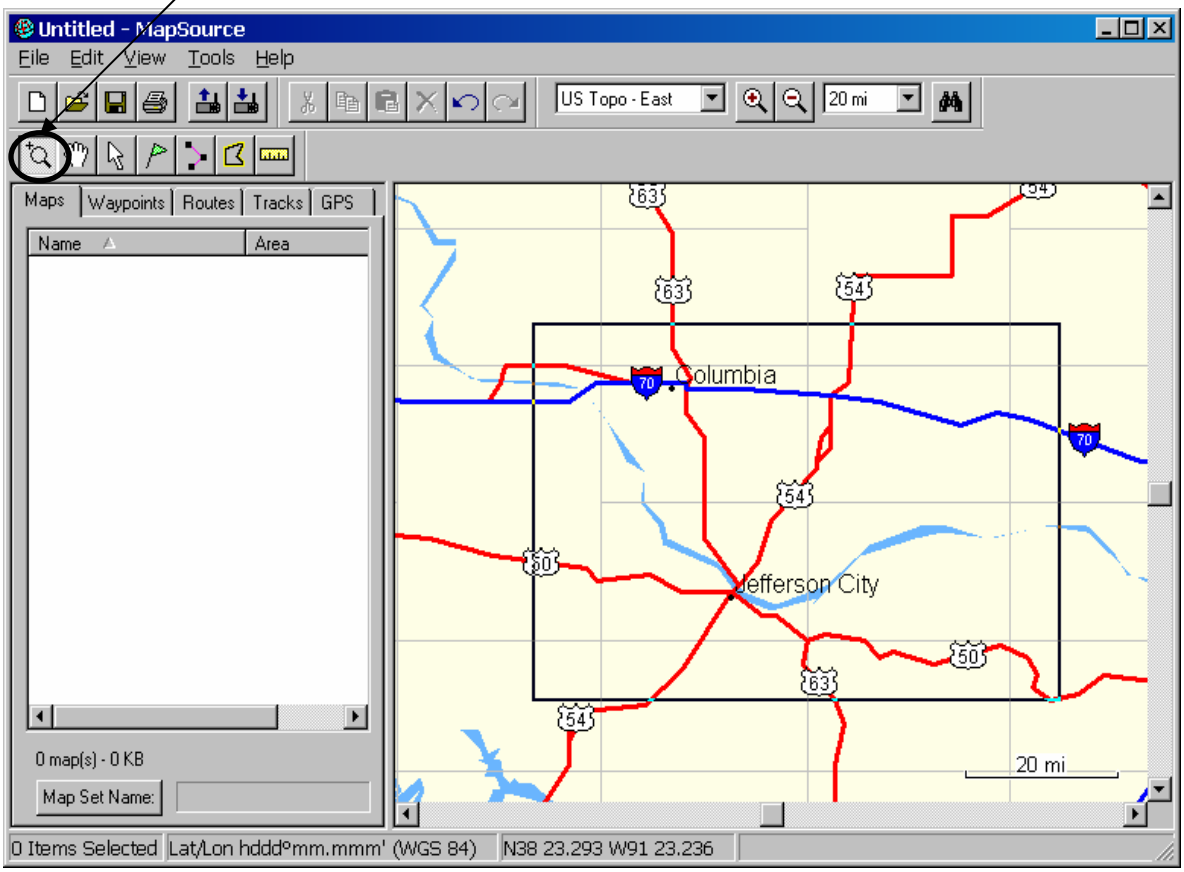
10. Press **QUIT** twice to return to the GPS Information screen.

Loading Background Maps into Garmin

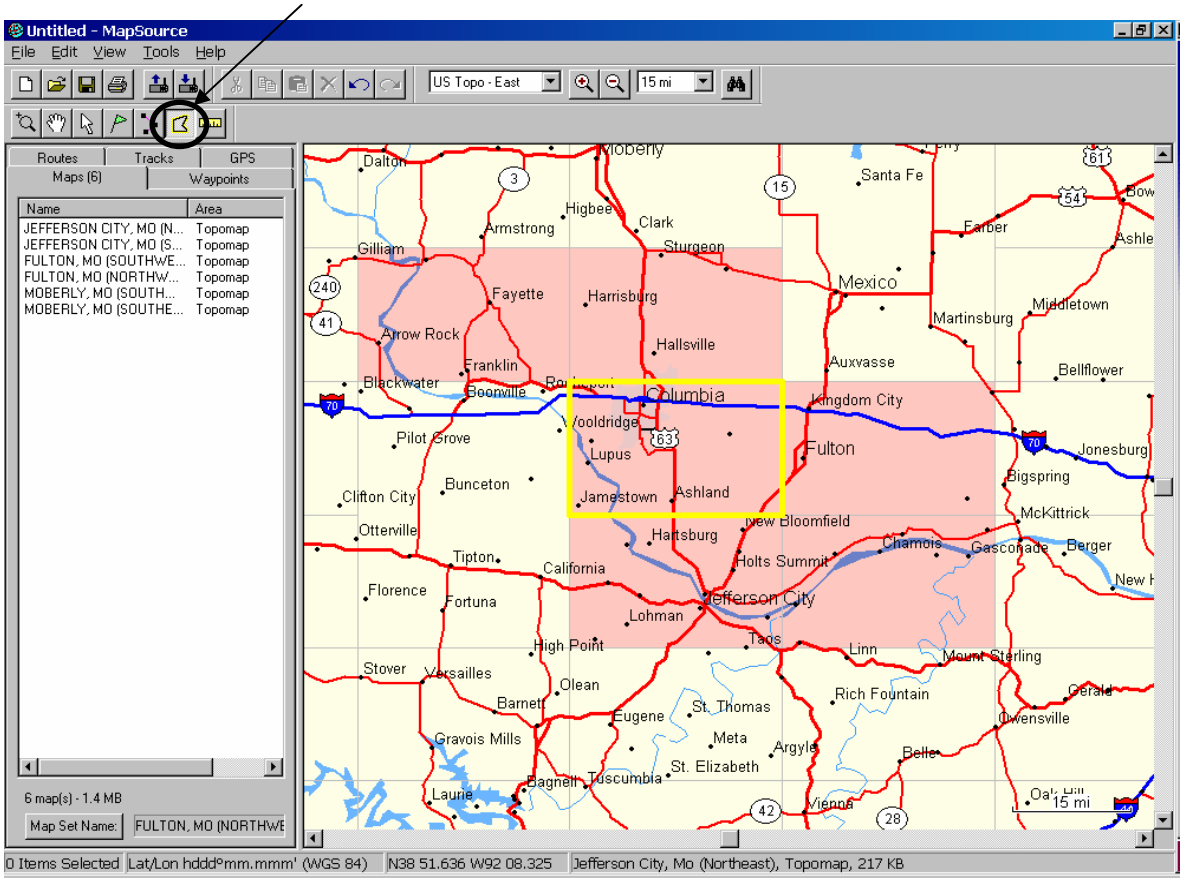
The Garmin MapSource TOPO software was included in the Configuration I GPS system. This software provides the capability to load maps into the Garmin receiver that contain contour lines as well as more detailed roads than the receiver's built-in maps. This would be very similar to adding a topo map (i.e., DRG) to a view in an ArcVIew project. MapSource divides a map into blocks or regions. These blocks do not correspond to the USGS quad map boundaries. In fact, a block might cover an area equivalent to that of 8-16 quad maps.

This procedure assumes that the MapSource TOPO software is installed on your computer. If not, you will need to install it before proceeding. These instructions guide you through loading background maps into the Garmin.

1. **Insert the Eastern US CD** (Disk 2 of 3) of MapSource TOPO into the computer.
2. **Start MapSource** program .
3. Use the **Zoom Tool** to draw a box around the area that you want to load the detailed maps from.



4. Use the **Map Tool** to click on sections of the map to load into the GPSmap 76. When you click on a “block” of maps the area is outlined in yellow and the area that will be loaded becomes shaded. The names of selected blocks are listed under the Maps tab. To remove a block, simply click on it again.



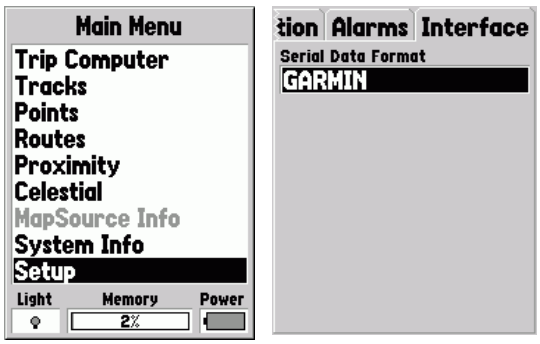
The GPSmap 76 can hold 8mb of map data, which is approximately 30-35 map blocks.

5. Connect the GPSmap 76 to the computer.

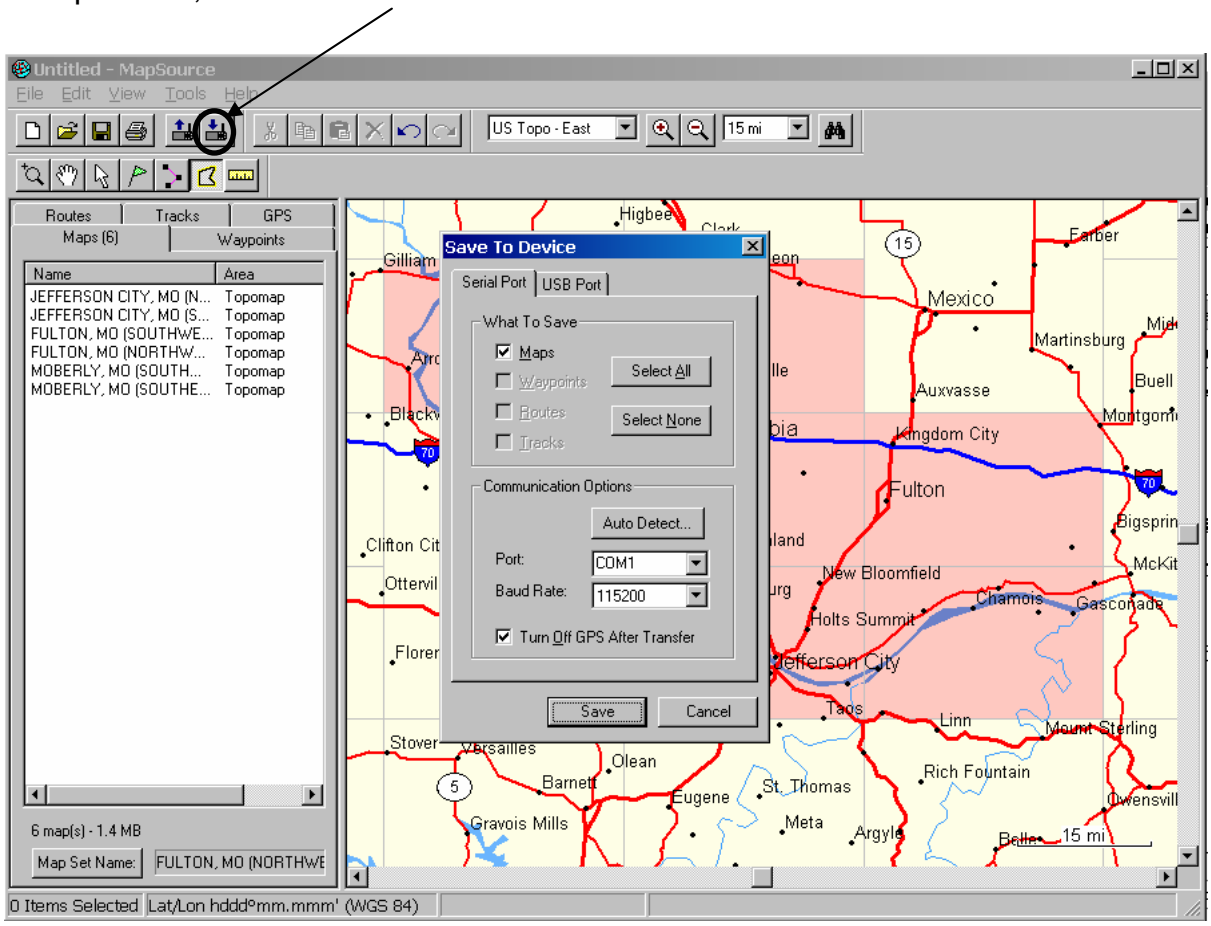
6. Turn on the GPSmap 76 (hold down red **POWER** key).

7. Press the **ENTER** key (2 to 3 times) until you see the GPS Information Page.

8. Press the **MENU** key. Select “Start Simulator”. Press the **ENTER** key.
9. Verify the “GARMIN” interface is selected:
   a. Press the **MENU** key two times.
   b. Use **ROCKER** key to select “Setup”; then press the **ENTER** key.
   c. Use **ROCKER** key to move left or right to select the *Interface* tab. Verify ***Serial Data Format*** is set to **“GARMIN”**. If not, toggle down and change the setting.



10. In MapSource, click the **Save to GPS** button.



   a. A pop-up window will appear with *Maps* checked. If you know which serial port you connected to the Garmin, set the port accordingly. If not known, click [Auto Detect..] and it should find the correct port. Baud rate can be set to 115200. If you encounter communication problems, you might try lowering the baud rate. Click the **[Save]** button.

11. After transfer is complete, exit MapSource.

Collecting GPS Data in the Field

Waypoints vs. Tracks

Once set-up, the Garmin GPS offers two distinct methods of data collection – waypoints and tracks. Waypoints are individual locations stored in the GPS buffer. Each point must be consciously marked and stored by the user. The points are independent until the user, with ArcView or similar tool, relates them as nodes along a line or polygon, for example, based on their sequence. Tracks, on the other hand, are a continuous series of points collected automatically at a regular time or distance interval. The only user intervention is to start and finish a track log. Track points are treated by the GPS as points along a line or polygon boundary. Therefore, the GPS can estimate area bounded by tracks without downloading the points to GIS software (see page 18 for precautions about track area calculations).

The pros and cons of waypoints versus tracks are often debated. Features which consist of well-defined points (i.e. field boundaries, fences, pipelines, etc) can, in most cases, be captured more efficiently and accurately as individual waypoints. Points that are not well defined or that are non-linear (curved) (i.e. treatment areas, wetland boundaries, etc) are generally more accurately and efficiently captured using the track function. However, tracks with short collection intervals can quickly exceed the GPS storage buffer. Also, tracks collect data for wherever the GPS travels (including, e.g., diversions around wet areas) unless the user is careful to pause the track data collection when off-course. Finally, if using a vehicle to collect tracks, it is possible to traverse a critical bend in a boundary between capture of points and misrepresent the shape.

The user must ultimately choose a method best for each unique circumstance. Using the MN DNR Garmin ArcView extension, waypoints and tracks can be edited and processed into point, line or polygon themes for similar results.

Required Accuracy Levels

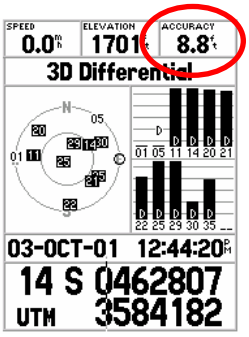
When collecting data with GPS in the field, certain accuracy levels need to be maintained in order to collect data as precisely as possible. This level of accuracy will depend on the type of data being collected:

Using GPS to Certify Conservation Practices

When collecting data with GPS for use in certifying conservation practices, every attempt should be made to maximize accuracy. In order to make this possible, it is **required** that the Garmin GPSmap 76 be connected to the DGPS Beacon Receiver where beacon coverage is available. Data collected using DGPS is inherently more accurate and consistent than data collected with autonomous GPS.

The user should only collect data when the following parameters have been met in the field:

The Accuracy which is found on the GPS Information Page should always be **less than or equal to 10 ft**.



Using GPS for Conservation Planning

In instances where absolute accuracy is not a requirement (i.e. Basic Conservation Planning, Resource Inventories, Navigation, etc.) the Garmin GPSmap 76 can be used without being connected to the DGPS Beacon Receiver. However, the following accuracy levels should be maintained for best results:

The Accuracy which is found on the GPS Information Page should always be **less than or equal to 20 ft**.

Collecting GPS Data as Waypoints

Points that are well defined (i.e. wells, pipelines, fences, field boundaries, etc) can, in most cases, be more accurately and easily obtained by collecting GPS data as waypoints. Use the following procedure to collect waypoint data:

1. Make sure GPS unit is setup correctly (see **Garmin GPSmap 76 Setup** section on page 6).

2. Place the GPS antenna (either the external antenna mounted on the backpack pole or the internal antenna of the Garmin receiver) directly over the point desired.

3. Wait until accuracy is below required value (see ***Required Accuracy Levels*** on page 14).

4. Press and hold down the **ENTER** key until the *Mark Waypoint* screen appears with the coordinates of your current location displayed. A default 3 digit number for the new waypoint will display. The user can either change this number or accept the default. If averaging is desired do the following, otherwise skip to step 5 below.

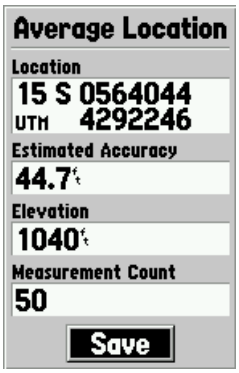
   Averaging

   To improve the accuracy of a point, averaging can be used.

   a) Press the **MENU** key.
   b) Select "Average Location" and press the **ENTER** key.

   c) The A*verage Location* screen should then appear.
   NOTE: Do not move GPS antenna while in this mode.

   The *Measurement Count* field should start counting number of measurements used in the average. The *Estimated Accuracy* value should start decreasing. When you feel that enough measurements have been recorded to get a good average of your position, press the **ENTER** key to save the average.



5. While on the *Mark Waypoint* screen, highlight [OK] and press the **ENTER** key to store the point

Important note: Keep good notes in the field! Keeping notes of which waypoints go where will make data handling much easier when you get back to the office.

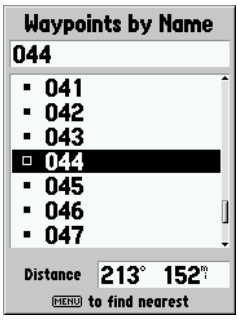
Deleting Points

1. Press the **MENU** key twice.

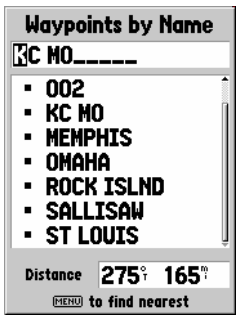
2. Select “Points”. Press the **ENTER** key.

3. Select “Waypoints”. Press the **ENTER** key.

4. If you want to delete a single waypoint,
   a. Highlight the desired point in lower window (you might want to refer to the tips on using the keypad earlier in this document).
   b. Press the **MENU** key.
   c. Select “Delete Waypoint”.
   d. Highlight [Yes] and press the **ENTER** key to confirm the deletion.



5. If you want to delete all of the waypoints,
   a. Press the **MENU** key.
   b. Select “Delete All”.
   c. Highlight [Yes] and press the **ENTER** key to confirm the deletion.



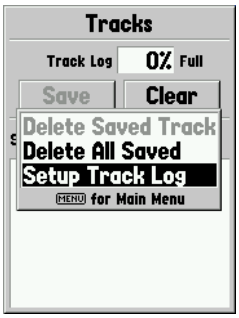
Collecting GPS Data as Tracks

The "Track" feature can be used to more easily collect data for boundaries, treatment areas, etc. that might be difficult to define by manually marking waypoints (e.g., not well defined and non-linear or curved). It is also useful if you would like to determine an acreage estimate for an area while in the field. Before using tracks, however, the user should be fully aware of the issues related to using this feature in the Garmin (see the discussion under ***Waypoints vs. Tracks*** on page 13 as well as warnings given in this section). When collecting data as Tracks, setup the Garmin as follows:

1. Press the **MENU** key twice to bring up the *Main Menu*.

2. Select "Tracks". Press the **ENTER** key.

   Note: Before beginning a new track, you might consider clearing the stored track log (see instructions below).



3. On the *Tracks* page, press the **MENU** key.

4. Select "Setup Track Log". Press the **ENTER** key.

5. On the *Track Log Setup* page,
   set *Recording* to **"Off"** to turn OFF tracking , or
   set *Recording* to either
   "Stop When Full" or **"Wrap When Full"** to turn ON tracking,
   The *Record Method* and *Interval* fields should be set appropriate to the need of the specific job. If "Auto" method is used, the interval "Most Often" should be used to give best results.

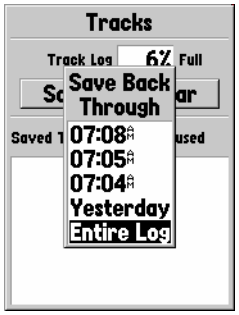
6. Highlight [OK] and press the **ENTER** key.

Keep in mind that the antenna needs to be kept as close as possible to the boundary being marked. If you need to divert from the boundary, you should turn off tracking. Upon returning to the boundary, turn on tracking to begin collecting data again. Two separate track segments will be created which can be joined in the DNR Garmin software (see instructions on page 27 in the Editing the Track Data section). This same technique can be used to define multiple features (i.e., turn off tracking to finish one feature and turn on tracking to begin marking the next feature).

Calculating Area

The Garmin GPSmap 76 has the ability to calculate the area of a single track or multiple tracks that make up the same feature. The GPSmap 76 does not have the ability to compute the area from individual waypoints. **NOTE: This area should only be considered as an estimate (see important note below concerning official area calculations).** Follow these steps to compute the area of a Track:

1. From the *Tracks* page,
   Highlight **[Save]** and press the **ENTER** key.



2. You will be given the choice to save the entire track log, or if you have multiple segments, you can choose how far back to save. Make your choice and press the **ENTER** key.

IMPORTANT: In the process of saving a track, the GPS filters the track data. Be aware that the area calculated may vary somewhat from the area calculation you will get in ArcView from the unfiltered (original) track data. This variation will depend on how complex the original track data is. **Remember that official NRCS policy is to calculate area/lengths measured with a GPS in ArcView/Customer Service Toolkit before certifying a conservation practice**.

3. After viewing the area calculation of the track, highlight **[Delete]** and press the **ENTER** key to remove this saved track. The original track will remain stored in the GPS internal memory.

Again, keep good notes in the field! Keeping notes of which track segments go where will make data handling much easier when you get back to the office.

Clearing the Track Log

If the track log memory becomes full or you wish to free up memory before beginning a new track, you will need to clear the entire existing track log as follows:

1. From the *Tracks* page,
   highlight **[Clear]** and press the **ENTER** key.
2. Highlight **[Yes]** and press the **ENTER** key.

Using GPS Data

DNR Garmin (© 2001 Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources) is a combination Visual Basic program and ArcView extension that communicates with the GPS receiver and converts the information received into shapefiles or graphics for use in ArcView. These instructions are based on version 4.0. For more detailed information on the use of this program, refer to the DNR Garmin help file.

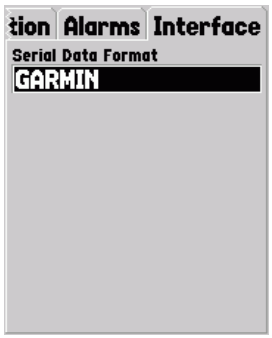
Garmin GPSmap76 Setup for Downloading

1. Using the download cable (round Garmin connector on one end, 9-pin serial connector on the other end), connect the GPS unit to an open serial port on the computer.

2. Turn on GPS unit. Press the **ENTER** key until the GPS Information screen appears.
3. Press the **MENU** key.
   Highlight "Start Simulator".
   Press the **ENTER** key.
   This will stop the unit from trying to acquire satellites and thus conserve battery power.

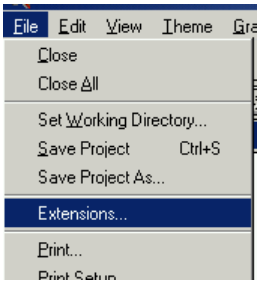
IMPORTANT: The Garmin GPSmap 76 interface setup **MUST** always be returned to the **Garmin** format before attempting to download to ArcView using DNR Garmin!!!

4. Verify the "GARMIN" interface is selected:
   a. Press the **MENU** key two times.
   b. Select "Setup"; then press the **ENTER** key.
   c. Move left or right to select the *Interface* tab.
      Verify
      Serial Data Format is set to **"GARMIN"**.
      If not, toggle down and change the setting.

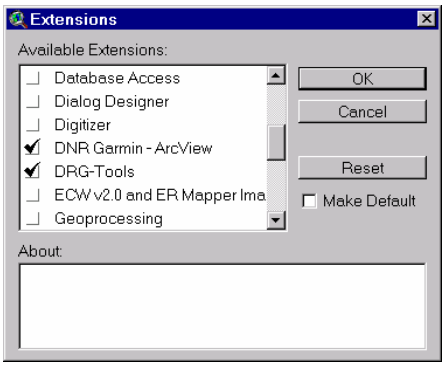


DNR Garmin Setup

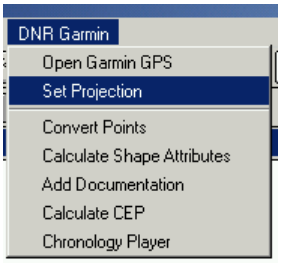
1. From ArcView's pull-down menus, select **File -> Extensions** to open the extensions dialog box.



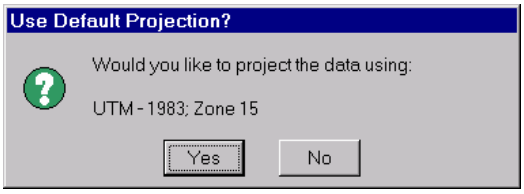
2. Choose "DNR Garmin – Arcview" by checking the box to the left of its name. Click **[OK]**. This will add "DNR Garmin" to the available ArcView View menus.



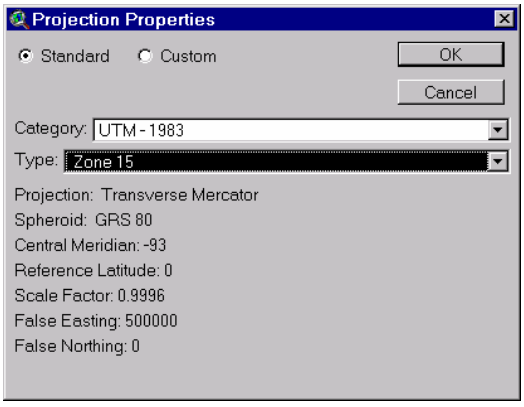
3. When you run DNR Garmin for the first time, the program will ask you to set the default projection. You can also set or change it by selecting **DNR Garmin -> Set Projection**.



4. If the displayed projection is correct, select **[Yes]**. Select **[No]** to change it. UTM-1983, Zone 15 is correct for all counties in Missouri except Cape Girardeau, Mississippi, New Madrid, Perry, Pemiscot, Scott, and Stoddard which are UTM-1983, Zone 16.

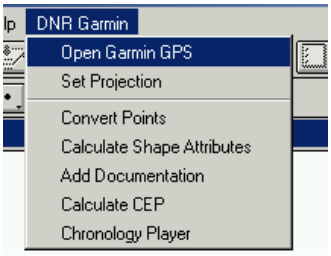


5. To change the default projection: Select **"UTM – 1983"** from the "Category" list. Select the appropriate UTM zone from the "Type" list. *(This should match the projection in the DRGs, DOQQs, MrSID files, and other GIS data you intend to use).*

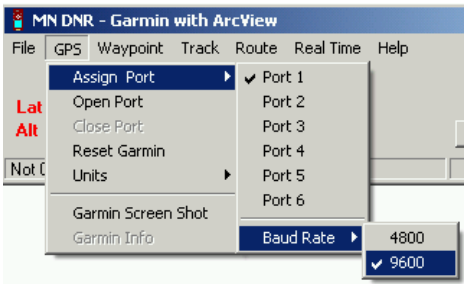


Downloading GPS Data

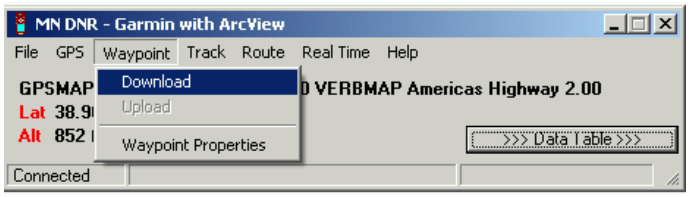
1. Select **DNR Garmin -> Open Garmin GPS** from the top menu. If there is no "DNR Garmin" menu, see DNR Garmin Setup above. The MN DNR – Garmin program should then load.



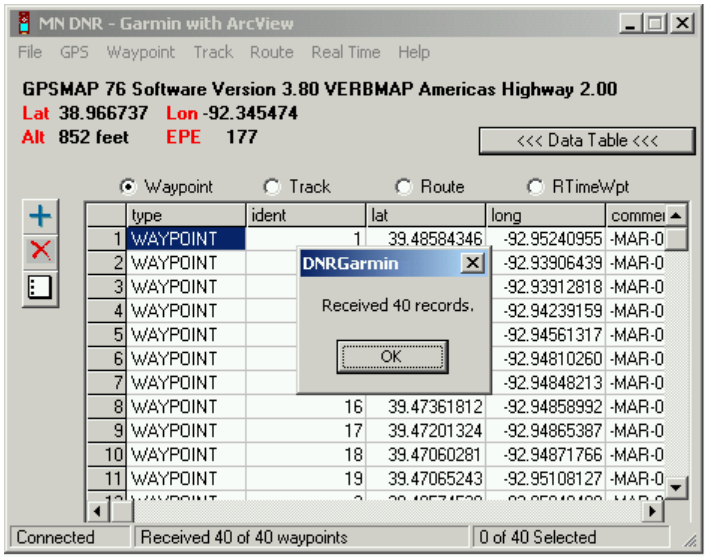
2. If the Garmin does not connect, select **GPS -> Assign Port** and check that correct port and baud rate (9600) are selected.



3. Select **Waypoint -> Download** to download waypoints or **Track -> Download** to download tracks from the GPS.



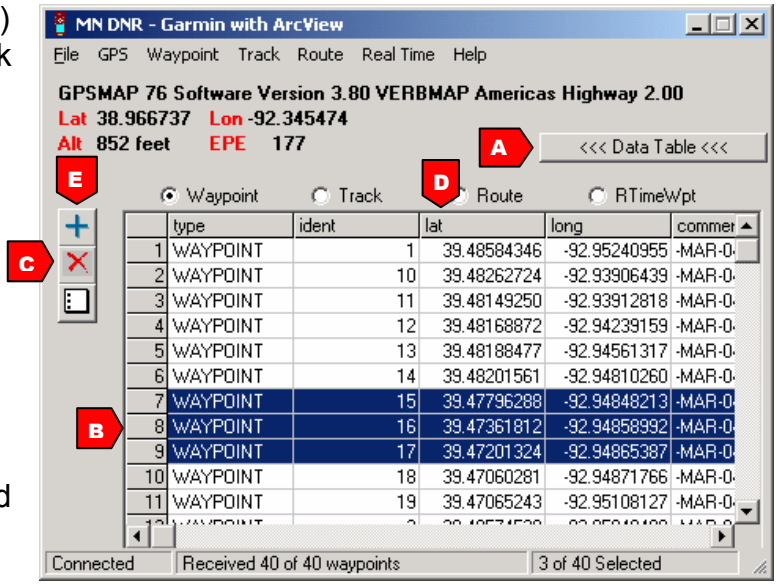
4. The program will begin retrieving all waypoints or tracks stored in the GPS memory.
When all records have been retrieved, a dialog box will appear that tells how many records have been received. Click **[OK]** to close this dialog box.



NOTE: If you are finished downloading, you can shut off the GPS unit to conserve battery life. Simply hold down the Power key until unit shuts off.

Editing GPS Data

Click **[>>> Data Table >>>]** button (A) to bring up a table of waypoint or track data.



Editing
Double-click on cell to change its value.

Deleting Records
Select a single row by clicking on row number to left of desired row (B). Hold down mouse button and drag to select multiple rows. Press the **Delete** button (C) to delete highlighted record(s).

Deleting Columns
Select a single column by clicking on column heading above of desired column (D). Hold down mouse button and drag to select multiple columns. Press the **Delete** button (C) to delete highlighted column(s).

Adding Records
Press the **Add** button (E). This will add a row at the bottom. You can then enter the appropriate data for that record.

Working with Waypoint Data Using DNR Garmin

Once you have successfully downloaded the data from the GPS, you can then edit the data and import that data into ArcView as either a point shapefile or as graphic points. DNR Garmin also gives the user the capability to save the GPS data as a text file for later reference.

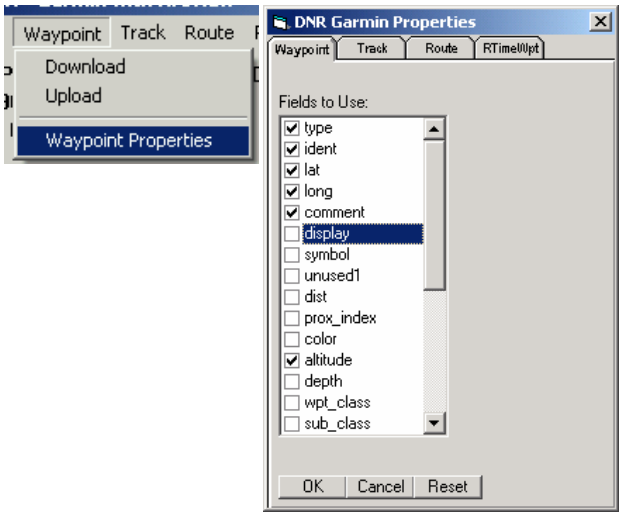
Editing the Waypoint Data

Before saving the GPS data, it is useful to to remove unwanted columns of information. Generally speaking, the first five columns of data **(type, ident, lat, long, comment)** are the only items that are typically needed. All other columns to the right should, in most cases, be removed before saving the data. In addition, any unwanted waypoints should also be removed before saving the data.

One way to remove columns is to select **Waypoint -> Waypoint Properties .** and then uncheck all the columns you do not want.

Another way is to simply delete the unwanted columns.

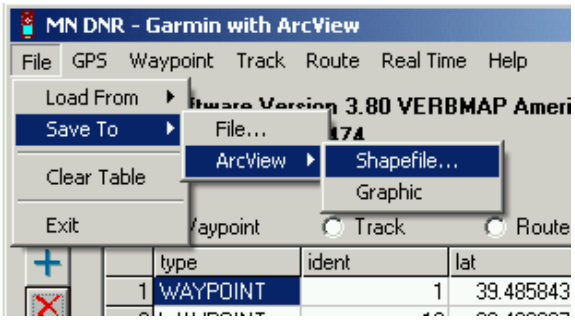
Refer to the previous section ***Editing GPS Data*** on how to delete columns and rows from the table.



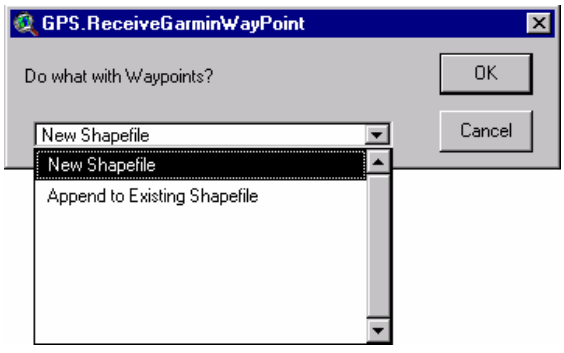
Saving the Waypoints as an ArcView shapefile

After editing the waypoint data, you can then save the data as a new ArcView shapefile or append the waypoint data to an existing point theme already in ArcView.

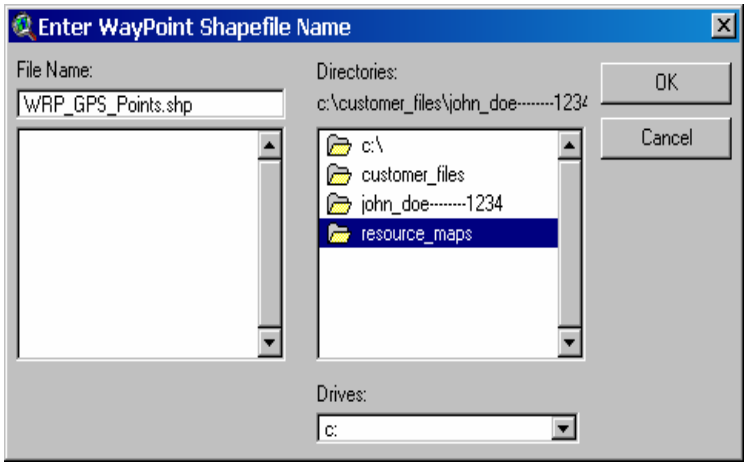
1. Select
   File -> Save To ->
   ArcView -> Shapefile….



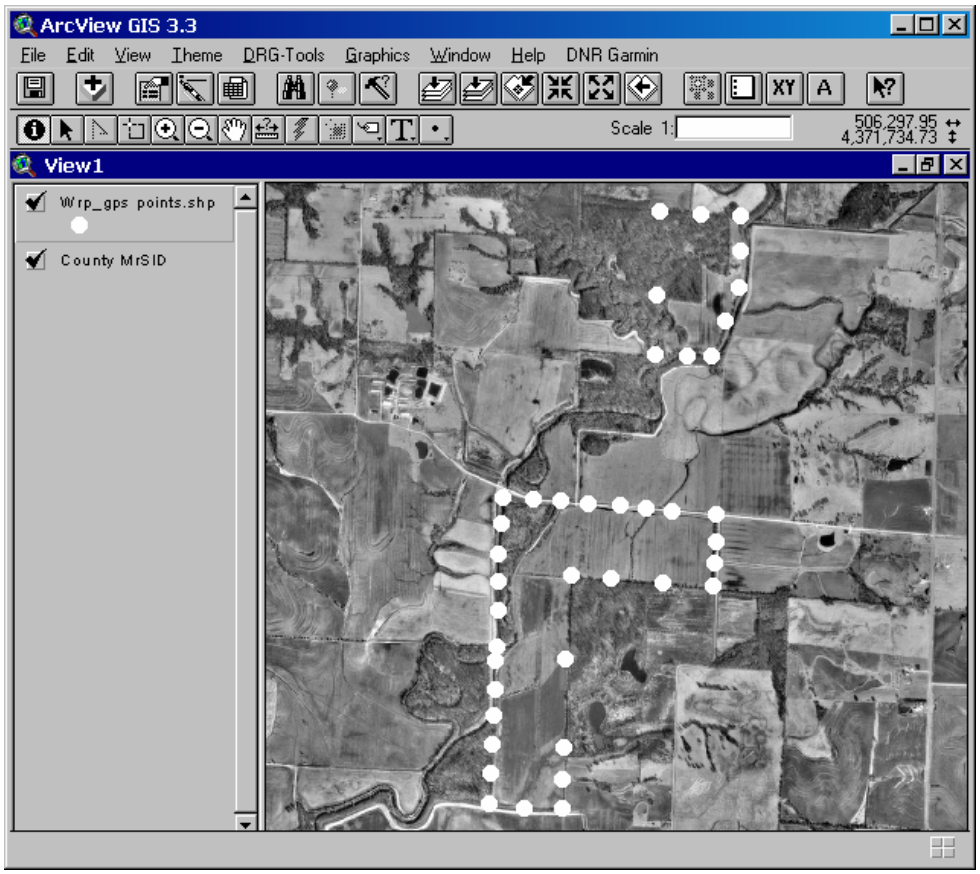
2. Select either **New Shapefile** or **Append to Existing Shapefile** and click **[OK]**.
   (**Note:** when appending waypoint data to an existing theme, you can only append to a point theme.)



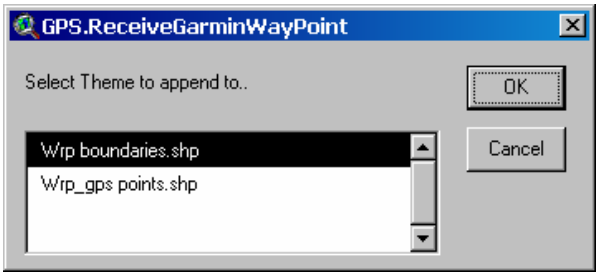
3. If creating **a New Shapefile**, navigate to the drive and folder where you would like to store the new shapefile, give it a descriptive **File Name** and click **[OK].** Normally this would be the appropriate folder under *c:\customer_files\ < your customers file>* . For example, put in *Resource_Maps* if generic, *Determinations* if wetland, etc.



4. The new theme is added to the View in ArcView.



5. If you chose **Append to Existing Theme**, select which point theme from the list you would like to append the waypoint data to and click **[OK]**.



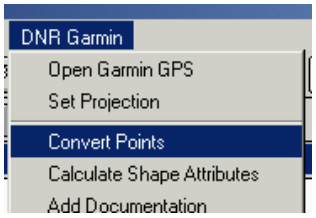
6. The waypoints will then be appended to the points already within the theme in ArcView that you are appending to.

Using DNR Garmin to Convert Waypoints to Lines or Polygons

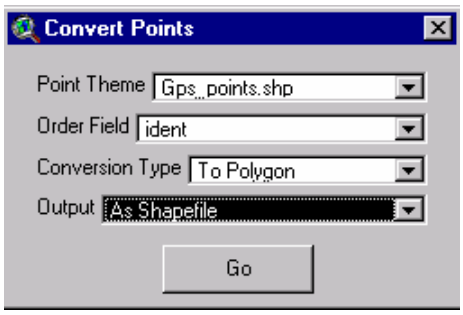
A user may have a need to develop a line or polygon theme from the points obtained via GPS. One method of doing this would be with heads-up digitizing using the points as a guide (i.e., creating the theme and connecting the desired "dots"). This method allows the user to determine the order of the vertices in the line or polygon and also to ignore bad points. Another method is to use the "Convert Points" tool in the DNR Garmin software. This tool will be the method discussed in this document. It requires a field (e.g., point number) that can be used as the order field. The values in this field would determine the order of the vertices in the new line or polygon. If a field is chosen that does not order the points in a sequential manner, an unexpected line or polygon could be the result.

The "Convert Points" tool can be used to convert points in an existing point theme to a new line or polygon shape. You can use the **Select Feature** tool in ArcView to select a subset of points from within a point theme to make a line or polygon from. If no features are selected, a line or polygon is created from all the points within the theme.

1. Start the tool by clicking **DNR Garmin -> Convert Points** on the View menu bar.



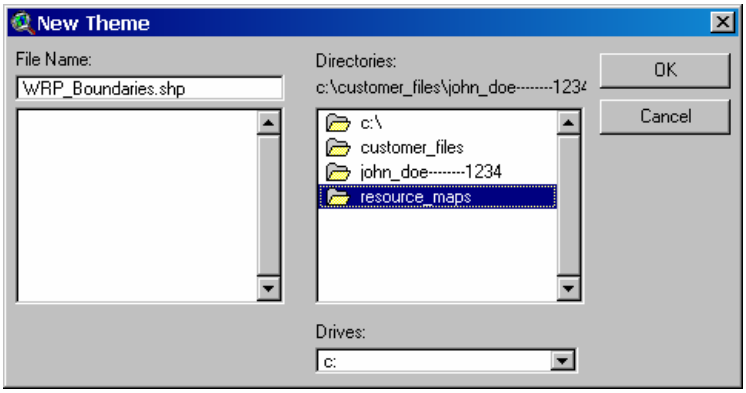
2. The *Convert Points* dialog will open and present you with options for creating the new shape. The fields in this dialog fields have the following functions:



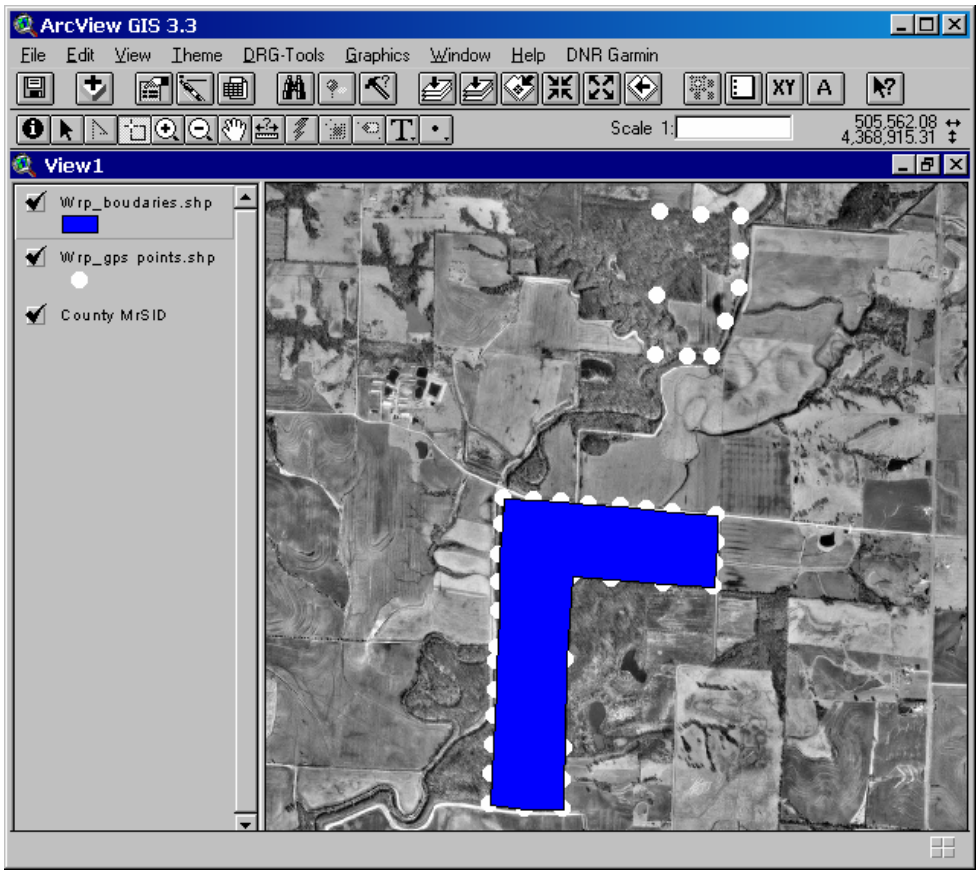
Point Theme – choose the point theme containing the points to convert
Order Field – the field in the point theme data table that will be used to specify the order of the vertices in the new shape. The field **"ident"** is generally the one which you would use to order the waypoints.
Conversion Type – specify if you want to create a new line or polygon
Output – specify if you want to create a new shapefile or just draw a graphic in the View.

Press the **[Go]** button to create the new shape.

3. **Navigate** to the drive and folder where you would like to store the new shapefile, give it a descriptive **File Name** and click **[OK].** Normally this would be the appropriate folder under *c:\customer_files\ < your customers file>* . For example, put in *Resource_Maps* if generic, *Determinations* if wetland, etc.



4. The new theme will be added to the View.



5. You can now close the *Convert Points* dialog box.

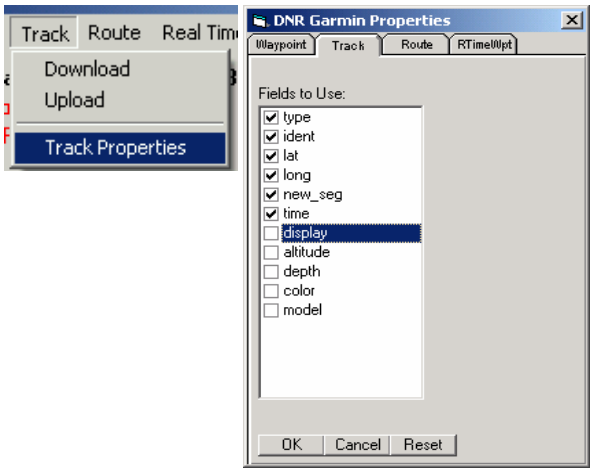
Working with Track Data Using DNR Garmin

Once you have successfully downloaded the tracks from the GPS, you can then edit the data and import that data into ArcView as a point, line, or polygon shapefile or as graphic points, lines or polygons. DNR Garmin also gives the user the capability to save the GPS data as a text file for later reference.

Editing the Track Data

Before saving the GPS data, it is useful to remove unwanted columns of information. Generally speaking, the first six columns of data **(type, ident, lat, long, new_seg, time)** are the only items that are typically needed. All other columns to the right should, in most cases, be removed before saving the data. In addition, any unwanted trackpoints can also be removed before saving the data.

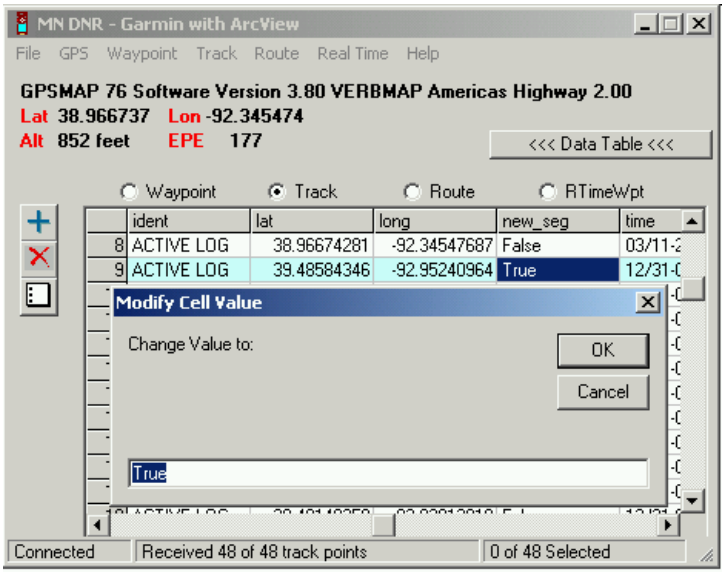
One way to remove columns is to select **Track -> Track Properties .** and then uncheck all the columns you do not want.



Another way is to simply delete the unwanted columns.

Refer to the previous section ***Editing GPS Data*** on how to delete columns and rows from the table.

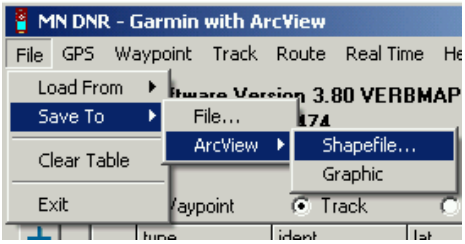
If you have multiple tracks that make up the same polygon, you need to merge these tracks together before saving. In the DNR Table, the start of each track is highlighted in blue. To merge two or more tracks, double click on the cell in the **new_seg** column which corresponds to the track that you want to merge with the previous track. Change the value from True to **False**.
To split (i.e., divide) one track into two, change the value from False to **True**.



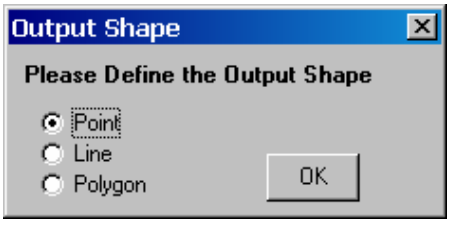
Saving the Tracks as an ArcView shapefile

After editing the track data, you can then save the data as a new ArcView shapefile (point, line or polygon) or append the track data to an existing theme already in ArcView.

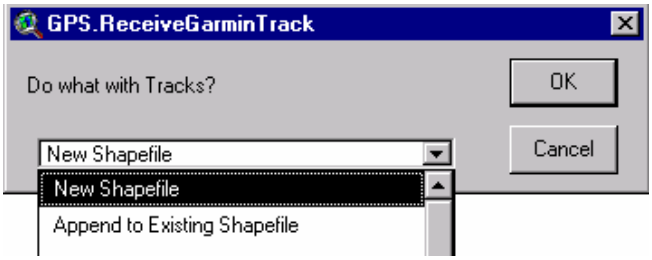
1. Select **File -> Save To -> ArcView -> Shapefile…**



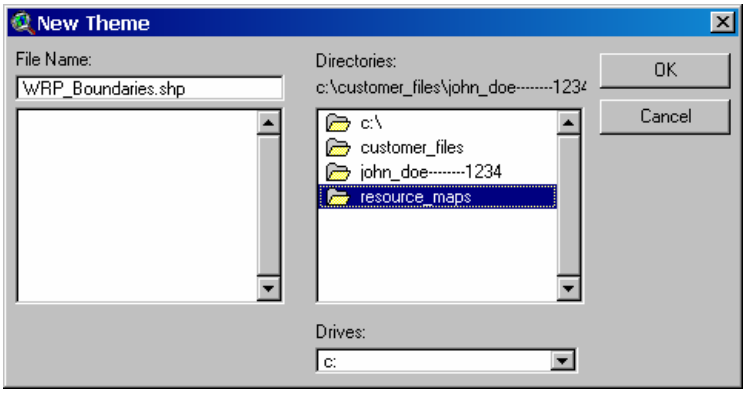
2. Select the output type for the data. It is recommended you use "Point" so that you can preview the points. You could then use "Convert Points" to create a shape file using only desired points. Click **[OK].**



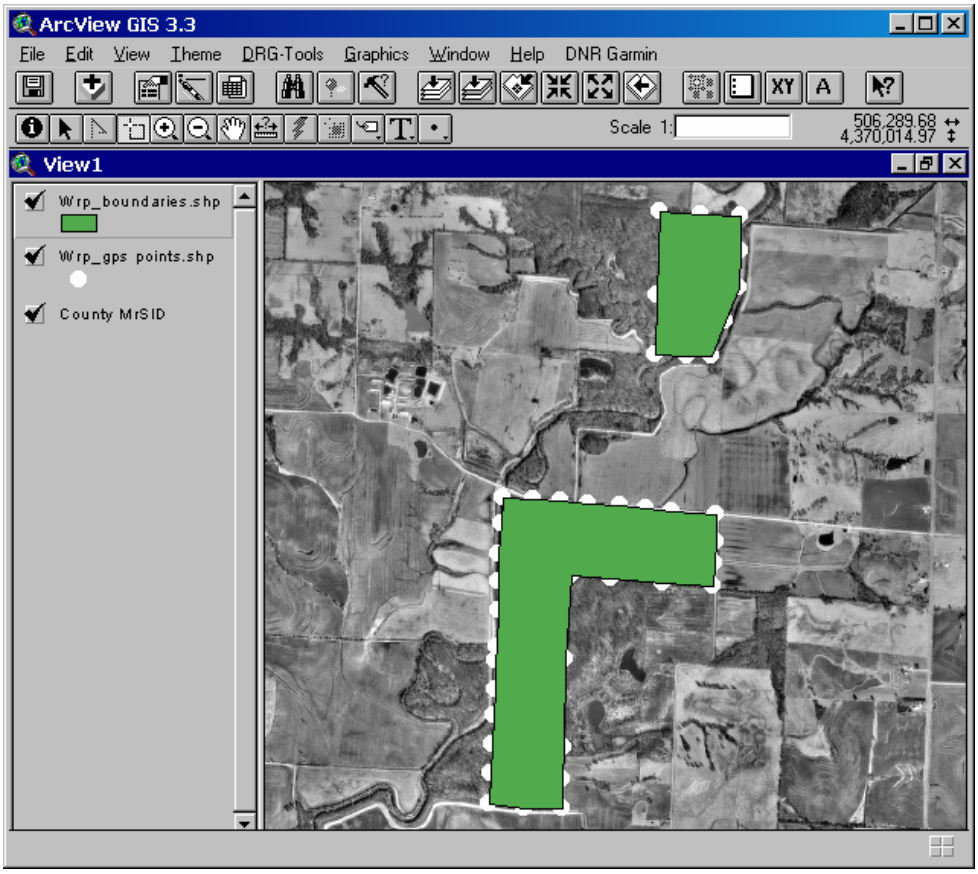
3. Select either **New Shapefile** or **Append to Existing Shapefile** and click **[OK]**.



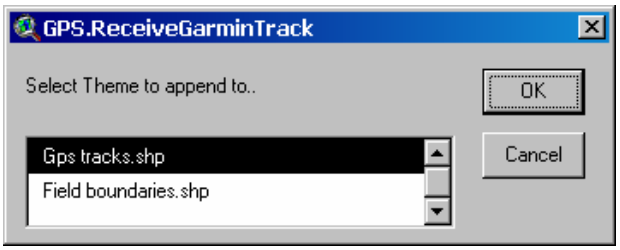
4. If creating **a New Shapefile**, navigate to the drive and folder where you would like to store the new shapefile, give it a descriptive **File Name** and click **[OK].** Normally this would be the appropriate folder under *c:\customer_files\ < your customers file>* . For example, put in *Resource_Maps* if generic, *Determinations* if wetland, etc.



5. The new theme is added to the View in ArcView. Each individual track that came from DNR will be a separate polygon or line feature within the theme.



6. If **Appending to Existing Theme**, select the desired theme you would like to append the track data to and click **[OK]**.



7. The tracks will then be appended to the points, lines or polygons (depending on the type of theme) already within the theme in ArcView that you are appending to.

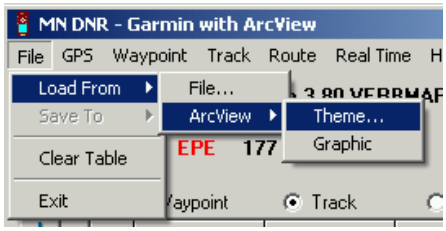
Uploading ArcView Data to the GPS Using DNR Garmin

DNR Garmin has the capability to upload position data from ArcView shapefiles to the GPS. This allows you to store positions of features obtained or developed via ArcView into the GPS unit. These stored positions can then be used in locating those features in the field (see *Navigating with the Garmin GPSmap 76* on page 33).

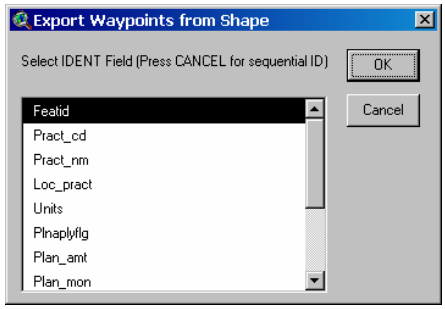
Uploading Waypoints

Waypoints can be loaded into the GPS from point shapefiles or graphics in the active view. In order to upload waypoints from shapefiles, the shapefile must be active. DNR Garmin will only upload the selected features of the shapefile, if there are any selected. If there are no selected points in the shape, all points will be uploaded. Only selected graphics will be uploaded.

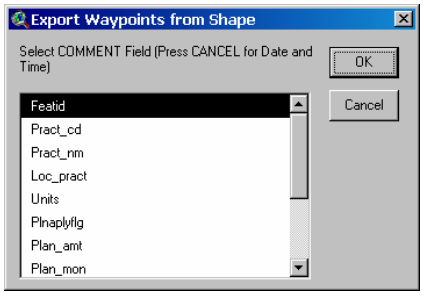
1. Click on **File ->Load From** and select **File…**, or **ArcView -> Theme…**, or **ArcView -> Graphic** to begin uploading waypoint data into the DNR Garmin table.



2. If you are loading data from a shapefile, DNR Garmin will open a dialog box asking what value from the shape attribute table you want to use for the *IDENT* field to be loaded into the GPS as the Waypoint number.
   Select one and hit **[OK]** or press **[Cancel]**. Pressing the [Cancel] button will number each point sequentially starting at 1.



3. A second dialog box will open asking what value from the shape attribute table you want to use for the *COMMENT* field to be loaded into the GPS as the Waypoint description.
   Select one and hit **[OK]** or press **[Cancel]**. Pressing the [Cancel] button will assign the current date/time to each waypoint.

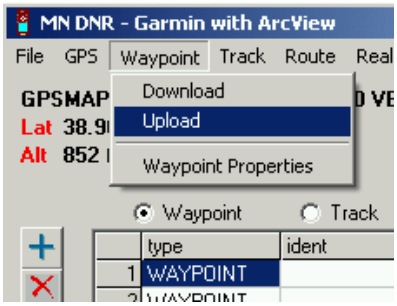


If you are loading graphics as waypoints they will automatically be assigned sequential *idents* and the *comment* field will default to the current date/time, since graphics do not have attributes.

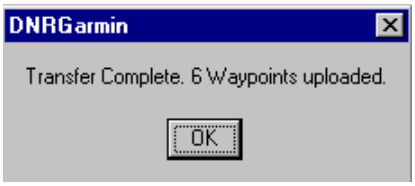
Caution! The program will overwrite any waypoints on the GPS unit that have the same *ident* as a waypoint being uploaded.

The Waypoint data can be edited in the DNR Garmin table if desired.

4. Upload the waypoints in the table to the GPS by selecting **Waypoint -> Upload** from the DNR Garmin menu.



5. A message box will appear once the download has been completed. Press the **[OK]** button.

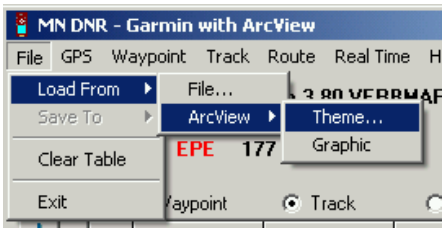


The data has been loaded to the GPS and is ready to go to the field.

Uploading Tracks

Tracks can be loaded into the GPS from line or polygon shapefiles or graphics in the active view. In order to upload tracks from shapefiles, the shapefile must be the active theme. DNR Garmin will only upload the selected features from the shapefile, if there are any selected. If there are no selected features in the active theme, all features will be uploaded. Only selected graphics will be uploaded.

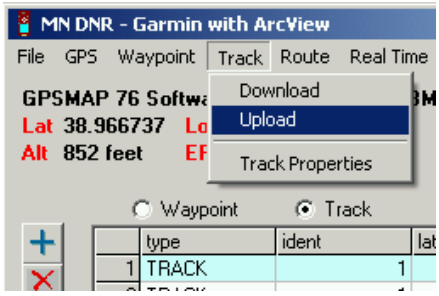
1. Click on **File -> Load From** and select **File…**, or **ArcView -> Theme…**, or **ArcView -> Graphic** to begin uploading track data into the DNR Garmin table



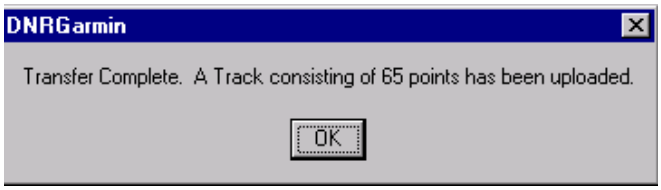
2. If no features are selected in the active themes that you are uploading, DNR Garmin will display a dialog asking if you want to load all features in the shapefile.
   Press **[Yes]**.

The Track data can be edited in the DNR Garmin table if desired.

3. Upload the waypoints in the table to the GPS by selecting **Track -> Upload** from the DNR Garmin menu.



4. A message box will appear once the download has been completed.
   Press the **[OK]** button.



The data has been loaded to the GPS and is ready to go to the field.

Navigating with the Garmin GPSmap 76

The Garmin GPSmap 76 can be used to navigate to (i.e., locate) any of its stored points (e.g., those uploaded in the previous section). This can be very useful for locating features such as well heads, wetland boundaries, etc, or for laying out conservation practices such as fences, brush management, or grass plantings.

Navigating to a Point

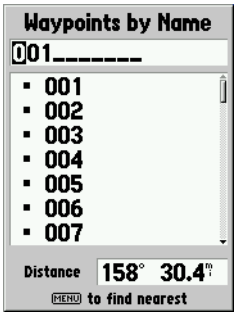
1. To navigate to a point, press the **NAV** key.

2. Highlight “Go To Point” and press the **ENTER** key.

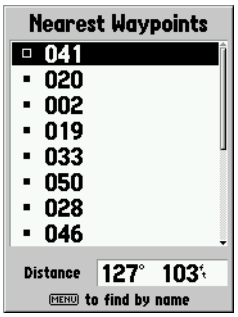
3. Highlight “Waypoints” and press the **ENTER** key.

4. One of 2 screens will appear, *Waypoints by Name* or *Nearest Waypoints* . Use the **MENU** key to switch between the two. (Note: The bottom of each screen shows direction and distance to highlighted point).

Waypoints by Name
Points are sorted by name.
Select desired point
(see *Tips on using Garmin keypad* on page 3).
Press the **ENTER** key.



Nearest Waypoints
Points are sorted by distance from your current position (nearest being listed first).
Highlight desired point using up/down of **ROCKER** key.
Press the **ENTER** key.

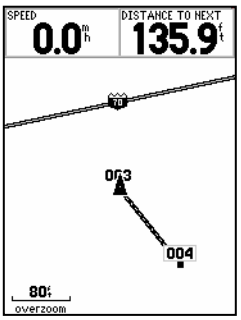


5. The *Waypoint* screen will appear.
   Highlight [Goto] and press the **ENTER** key.

6. Use the **PAGE** key to switch to the *Map Page*.

   This shows your current location as a triangle near the center of the screen and a line to the point you are navigating to. The line indicates the direction you need to go (North is toward top of screen). Zoom In and Out keys can be used to change scale of map.

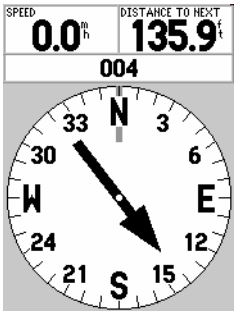
   Example at right instructs you to move southeast 135.9 feet.



7. An alternative to the *Map Page* is the *Pointer Page*.
   Use the **PAGE** key to switch to the *Pointer Page*.

   This shows a compass ring. The vertical line near the top of the ring indicates your direction of travel. The large pointer indicates the direction you need to travel to reach the navigation point.

   Example at right shows that you are moving north and that you actually need to be moving southeast 135.9 feet.



8. Once point is found, press the **NAV** key and select
   a. "Go To Point" to find another point, or
   b. "Stop Navigation" to end.

9. Press the **ENTER** key.

Appendix A – Field Guides

The "Field Guides" below are simply instruction "cards" that can be printed, cut out, and laminated to carry along with the Garmin GPSmap 76 GPS unit in the field. They are basically a 4"x6" size that can be carried in a shirt pocket or in the GPS backpack. If desired, you could laminate 2 of them back to back to reduce the number of cards.

"Complete SETUP" Field Guide

Garmin GPSmap76 - Complete SETUP

Press **MENU** twice, select **"SETUP"**, use **ROCKER** key (left or right) to select tabs below.
Use **ROCKER** key to move to desired field and change to value shown.

(for backpack use)

General

Mode
Normal
WAAS
Enabled
Backlight Timeout
user preference
Beeper
user preference
Language
English

Time

Time Format
user preference
Time Zone
Central
Daylight Savings Time
Auto

Location

Location Format
UTM UPS
Map Datum
NAD83
North Reference
True

Interface

Serial Data Format
RCTM In/NMEA Out
Baud
4800
Beacon Freq Bit Rate
User ###.# ###

Location	Freq	Bit Rate
KC,MO	305.0	200
Memphis,TN	310.0	200
Omaha,NE	298.0	200
Rock Island,IL	311.0	200
Salisaw,OK	299.0	200
St.Louis,MO	322.0	200

The settings on the Units and Alarms tabs can be set as the user desires.
From the General tab, scroll left once to reach the Interface tab, which will be changed frequently (i.e., switching between field use and downloading).
The settings on the other tabs will not require changing once they are set.

(for downloading)

Interface

Serial Data Format
GARMIN

10/1/2003

"Interface SETUP for Backpack Use" Field Guide

Garmin GPSmap76 – Interface SETUP for Backpack Use

- Press **MENU** button twice.
- Select **"SETUP"** and press the **ENTER** key.
- Scroll left once using the **ROCKER** key to the Interface tab.
- Move down to *Serial Data Format* field using the **ROCKER** key. Press the **ENTER** key.
- Select **"RTCM In/NMEA Out"** and press the **ENTER** key.
- Move down to *Beacon* field using the **ROCKER** key. Press the **ENTER** key.
- Select **"User"** and press the **ENTER** key.

- Move right to *Freq* field using the **ROCKER** key.
- Press the **ENTER** key.
- Select number using up or down of **ROCKER** key. (See table at right for appropriate frequencies).
- Move to next digit by pressing right on **ROCKER** key and repeat number selection.
- Press the **ENTER** key to accept number.
- Repeat same procedure for *Bit Rate* if it needs to be changed.

Location	Freq	Bit Rate
KC,MO	305.0	200
Memphis,TN	310.0	200
Omaha,NE	298.0	200
Rock Island,IL	311.0	200
Salisaw,OK	299.0	200
St.Louis,MO	322.0	200

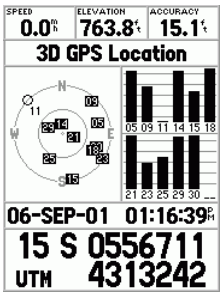
Press the **QUIT** key to return to the main menu.

NOTE: Remember to set *Serial Data Format* field to **"Garmin"** when you return to the office to download your data.

10/1/2003

"Marking Points" Field Guide

Marking (and entering) Points w/Garmin GPSmap76



< Accuracy should be <= 10 ft for certifying

<= 20 ft for planning

< should be UTM coordinates

☞ Press and hold **ENTER** key ☜

< change point name as desired

< should be UTM coordinates
(you can manually enter a point by entering coordinates here)

Highlight **[OK]** and
< press **ENTER**

<u>To improve accuracy, averaging can be used</u>:
Press **MENU**; select **Average Location**; do not move GPS unit while measurements are collected; press **ENTER** to save the point when desired count has been reached.

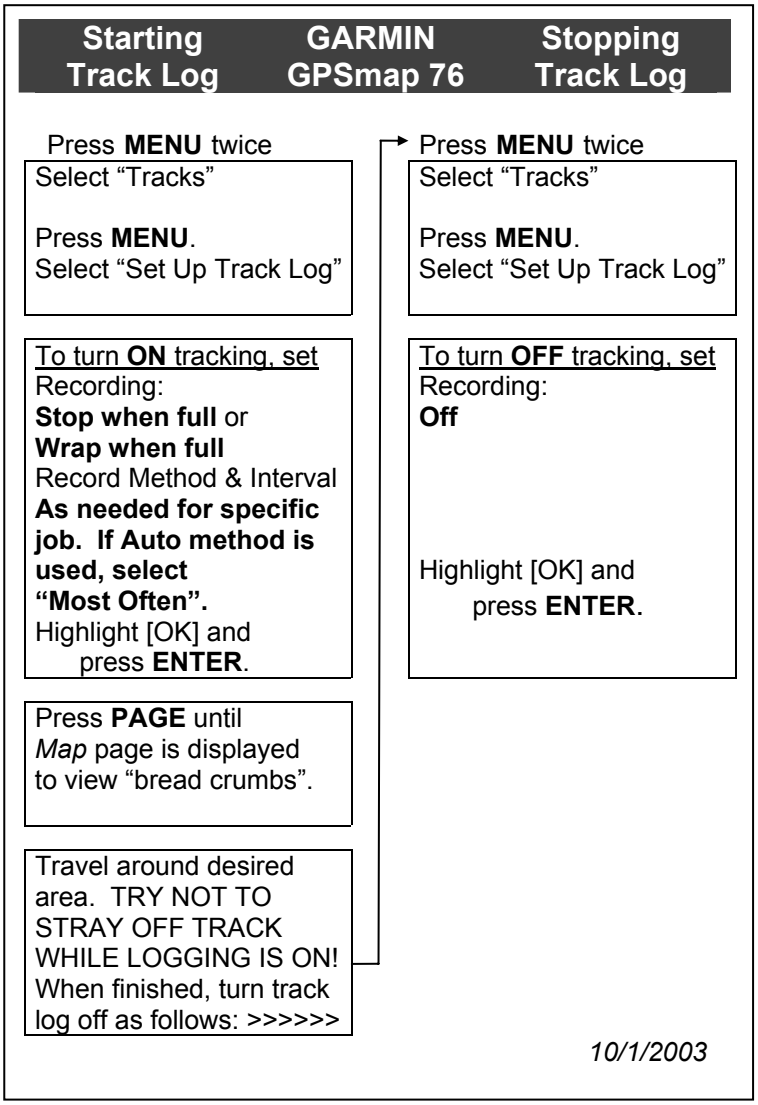
4/15/2004

"Deleting/Navigating to Points" Field Guide

Deleting Points	GARMIN GPSmap76	Navigating to Points
Press **MENU** twice.		Press **NAV** key.
Select "Points" Select "Waypoints"		Select "Go To Point" Select "Waypoints"
Highlight point using *Nearest Waypoint*, or *Waypoints by Name* page		Select point using *Nearest Waypoint*, or *Waypoints by Name* page
Press **MENU**. Select "Delete Waypoint" or "Delete All"		Select [GoTo] on waypoint page
Confirm the deletion by selecting [Yes].		Use *Map* or *Pointer* page to guide you to the point.

10/1/2003

"Starting/Stopping Track Logs" Field Guide



"Calculate Area/Clear Track Log" Field Guide

Calculate Area	GARMIN GPSmap76	Clear Track Log
Press **MENU** twice		Press **MENU** twice
Select "Tracks" Highlight [Save] and press **ENTER** key.		Select "Tracks" Highlight [Clear] and press **ENTER** key.
Select desired track segment. A page appears with the calculated *Area.* REMEMBER: This area is just an ***estimate*** and should be used as such.		Highlight [Yes] and press **ENTER** key. This will clear the entire track log memory.
======= NOTE ======= Because saving a track filters the data, the track **SHOULD NOT BE SAVED**. Make sure to delete it!.		
Highlight [Delete] and press **ENTER** key. Highlight [Yes] and press **ENTER** key.		

10/1/2003